

their provinces, Gandhi did not permit the matter to become an All-India issue as many hoped that he would do. He persuaded the Congress at the Haripura Session in February to accept a cautious resolution which left the door open. It is always his policy to leave the onus of decision on his opponents. If they accept his position he is glad; if they do not it can make a good *casus belli*. Like all good generals, he is glad to "keep his powder dry/" though he is often accused of playing into the hands of his opponents by apparent magnanimity.<sup>1</sup> It is interesting to note that in this case the Viceroy found that there was no politician opposed to the Congress who was ready to form a ministry in either of the provinces, and the Congress Ministers returned with enhanced prestige.

"What Hitler has done with the sword, I have done with the soul/" Gandhi has said. My plan in this book has been to look at the broad groupings in India to-day, rather than to write of leading personalities. One may safely leave the latter to John Gunther! It is true that great personalities make history, but only because they are able to seize hold of given situations and to utilise them, to assess the actual forces available at any one time. It is, however, impossible to conclude this chapter on the middle class without attempting some analysis of the influence and significance of Mahatma Gandhi, who has dominated the Indian scene for well-nigh twenty years. During the ascendancy of the Swaraj Party, he seems to have retired into the background, and again in 1934. In both cases prophets assured us that he was a "back-number" and in both cases he staged a triumphant "come-back."

<sup>1</sup> His political strategy is a kind of jiu-jitsu!